

## Message Text

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22

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCA-01 SS-15 PM-04 DODE-00

JUSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /039 W

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R 122040Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6716

INFO USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ASUNCION 0676

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PY

SUBJ: TRIALS OF THIRTEEN POLITICAL PRISONERS BEGIN

REF: STATE A-462

1. TRIALS HAVE BEGUN OF 13 PERSONS ORIGINALLY ARRESTED UNDER STATE OF SIEGE PROVISIONS IN LATE 1974 FOR SUSPECTED INVOLVEMENT IN ALLEGED PLOT TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT STROESSNER. INCLUDED IN THE 13 ARE LAWYERS RICARDO LUGO RODRIGUEZ AND FERNANDO ROBLES, ABOUT WHOM REF AIR SEEKS INFORMATION. LAST DECEMBER THESE PRISONERS WERE TRANSFERRED FROM VARIOUS POLICE STATIONS WHERE THEY WERE BEING HELD WITHOUT BENEFIT OF NORMAL LEGAL PROCESS TO NATIONAL PENITENTIARY TO AWAIT TRIALS. THEY HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH VIOLATING TWO BROADLY WORDED CRIMINAL STATUTES DESIGNED TO BE APPLIED TO SUBVERSIVES, LAW OF DEFENSE OF PUBLIC PEACE AND PERSONAL FREEDOM AND LAW OF DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY. TRIALS HAVE JUST BEGUN IN CRIMINAL COURT IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORMAL JUDICIAL PROCEDURES, WHICH INCLUDE REPRESENTATION BY LEGAL COUNSEL AND THE RIGHT TO CALL WITNESSES.

2. COMMENT- EMBASSY IS UNCERTAIN AS TO GOVERNMENT'S MOTIVES IN INSTITUTING THESE PROCEEDINGS. USUALLY PERSONS DETAINED UNDER STATE OF SIEGE PROVISIONS ARE HELD UNTIL RELEASED

WITHOUT ANY COURT PROCEDURE. HOPEFULLY, THESE CASES REPRESENT NEW TREND.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ASSASSINATION, POLITICAL PRISONERS, TRIALS, PLOTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 12 FEB 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Film Number:** D760054-1156  
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**Subject:** TRIALS OF THIRTEEN POLITICAL PRISONERS BEGIN  
**TAGS:** PINT, PA, (LUGO RODRIGUEZ, RICARDO), (ROBLES, FERNANDO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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